

D2253

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 1 to read as follows:

--This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/074,851 09/074,851, now US Patent No. 6,321,384, having a filing date of May 8, 1998, entitled "Noise reduction in cable return paths", which is a continuation of, ^{08,709,456 filed 9/5/96 which is a continuation of} U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/347,573, filed on November 30, 1994, now abandoned.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 25 of page 11 to read as follows:

--FIG. 3A 4A illustrates monitoring of the return path over a monitoring band 404. In many cable systems monitoring band 404 will be 5 to 42 MHz. As shown in FIG. 3A 4A an ingress signal 400 is present, along with a STB signal 410, and a CM signal 420. An ingress detection threshold 402 is established, based on the well known general characteristics of ingress, the specific characteristics of ingress for that plant, or a combination of the two. The ingress detection threshold 402 may change over time depending on the characteristics of the plant and the services in place. As an example, if more services are utilized the ingress detection threshold 402 may be lowered as compared to an initial value, since ingress may be more critical than when the services provided were minimal or at a low penetration rate.--